



Connections

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An electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the
Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus
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Carriacou MPA rallies stakeholders interested in co-management

On 25 - 26 April the Sustainable Grenadines (SusGren) project held a Workshop in Carriacou on "Designing a Co-management Model for Carriacou's Sandy Island Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area". It was organised and chaired by Martin Barriteau, assisted by Valgine Francis, of SusGren. Ruth Blyther of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Patrick McConney of CERMES were presenters and facilitators. The participants included most of the stakeholders from both Carriacou and mainland Grenada.



Sandy Island Oyster Bed MPA stakeholders were keenly interested in working together

Grenada sea urchin fishery study and small grant

As an affiliate of the MarGov project, Roxann Nayar of the University of Manitoba is undertaking her graduate research on the sea urchin fishery of Grenada with emphasis on social-ecological systems, networks and governance. She, her supervisor Iain Davidson-Hunt, and others took part in a workshop organised by the Fisheries

Division (mainly Crafton Isaac and Paul Phillip) in Grenville on 17 April.



Roxann Nayar (far left) and sea urchin fishers exchange information at Grenville workshop

The research is timely since the Fisheries Division is collecting data with which to determine whether or not to re-open the fishery which has been closed for over a decade. A key part of this determination is to develop a fishery management plan (FMP) and governance system ahead of any opening or major decision-making. In order to facilitate this, the Grenada Fisheries Division in association with the Agency for Rural Transformation (ART) has received a MarGov small grant. The main outputs of the small grant are a draft FMP for the sea urchin and a presentation for the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) slated for November this year. An outcome is changing attitudes towards urchin management and illegal fishing in order to conserve this resource.

Water resources field trip hosted by C5 in Belize

Belize hosted the first field trip of the Water Resources Management stream during April/May 2008. Re-live the experience of our students on

this trip as narrated by Dr. Adrian Cashman, the stream coordinator.

"The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (C5) put together a varied and interesting programme, part of which was shared with the climate change stream. On our first day in the field we visited a village that up until two years ago relied on hand pumps but now has a piped water system. It is clear from the photo that there are benefits that would not normally be imagined.



The next day saw the group in (not so) deep water getting to grips with the practicalities of flow gauging and water quality sampling in the field ably guided and assisted by the Hydrology Unit of the Belize Met Service. Later we were able to contrast this with having to undertake the same procedure from a small boat in the middle of a large river – life jackets and all.



CERMES students getting some hands-on practical experience

We also visited the Chalillo Dam on the Macal River, which together with the downstream Mollejon Dam generates nearly 50% of Belize's power requirements. This gave us the opportunity to observe the impact of large dams on river systems and to debate the trade-offs that face Caribbean countries as they develop their economies especially in water resources. Other visits enabled us to compare the wastewater treatment processes in the sugar industry with that of the brewing industry and to contrast



Chaillo Dam

desalination facilities.

Of course it wasn't all work, work, work! There were plenty of opportunities to see some of the other sights that Belize has to offer and get up close to them. Our thanks go to the Climate Change Centre for all the help, arrangements and making the field trip such a memorable experience."



Neetha Selliah, CERMES Programme Coordinator, unsure of if she wants to descend the pyramid?

Climate change and flooding



Prof. Saul, University of Sheffield, UK

In May members of the public, government officials and UWI academics attended a Campus Series Lecture given by Professor Adrian Saul of the University of Sheffield (UK). Speaking about Climate Change and Flooding, Professor Saul informed the audience about the prediction of the potential impacts of climate change on

urban infrastructure and some of the latest research being undertaken in the UK on measures that are being considered and implemented to adapt urban environments and mitigation measures to cope with the predicted impacts. He noted that the responses included investing more money in research, adopting innovative solutions that worked with natural processes to attenuate flooding, near real-time modelling and control of flooding and the need to change public behaviour and improve national flooding governance. Professor Saul was hosted by CERMES, which made the arrangements for the lecture.

Coral reef ambassadors

Building capacity of youth for advocacy in coral reef conservation is a major objective of the *Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management* project. On Friday 2 May 2008, the



Susan Mahon, JCRA workshop facilitator

Junior Coral Reef Ambassador (JCRA) workshop was held at the Folkestone Marine Reserve (FMR). Teachers and students from primary schools (St. Alban's Primary, Erdiston Primary and St. James Primary) and from secondary schools (St. James Secondary and Alexandra Secondary)

participated in the workshop. The aim of the workshop was to introduce the schools to the Junior Ranger Programme at the Negril Marine Park and draft a manual for the Folkestone Marine Reserve in Barbados. The draft manual has been prepared and sent to participants for review. The final version of the manual is expected to be completed during World Environmental Month. This workshop was coordinated by Katherine Blackman and Maria Pena of CERMES and facilitated by Ms. Susan Mahon of the Future Centre Trust. For more information on the project visit the website at

<http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/folkestone.html>.



A few of the school children who participated in the workshop with Ms. Susan Mahon, showing off their awards made of recyclable materials

Towards information sharing at Folkestone

Data have been collected and many studies have been conducted about the Folkestone Marine Reserve (FMR) in Barbados regarding management, coral reefs *inter alia*. Unfortunately, none of this information has been catalogued. Therefore to improve information sharing among resource users, scientists, FMR staff, communities and youth, an annotated bibliography was compiled for the FMR by Katherine Blackman, the CERMES affiliate of the *Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management* project. Apart

from the bibliography, a CD has been prepared with selected documents from the report.

Fisheries SocMon

The first phase of the *Socio-economic Monitoring by Caribbean Fishery Authorities (Fisheries SocMon)* project – the training of fisheries stakeholders in SocMon Caribbean methodology – has been completed. Five in-country 3-day practical workshops were held over the past five weeks in Barbados, Dominica, Nevis, Grenada and St. Vincent. Maria Pena, Project Officer, assisted by Dr. Patrick McConney (Senior Lecturer and Regional SocMon Coordinator for the English-speaking Caribbean) and Katherine Blackman (Research Assistant), CERMES, facilitated the workshops. 16-21 fisheries stakeholders ranging from fisheries division staff, other relevant government agency staff, local NGOs, fisherfolk, fisherfolk co-operative members as well as secondary schoolchildren were trained in socio-economic monitoring.



The Grenada group on their field trip to one of the coastal settlements within their study area



Workshop participants in Nevis working diligently on their monitoring plan

During the workshops, participants defined the boundaries of the study area for initiation of monitoring as well as to articulate the goals and objectives for monitoring based on their interests. They also visited the study area of interest as a preliminary reconnaissance in order to observe coastal issues, physical developments in the area, the location and distribution of fishing-related activities and any activity occurring in the area that would have to be monitored later.



A quarry, one of the areas of concern just north of a fishing village within the study area in Dominica

On day 2 of the workshop, participants were guided in drafting a monitoring plan for their areas of interest. The primary goals of each site include monitoring the impacts of present and proposed development on the study area; collection of socio-economic data to inform marine conservation and development decision-making; assessing the importance of coastal resources to fishing and other stakeholders in coastal settlements; and gathering baseline socio-economic information to inform development decision-making and enhancing the environmental condition of the area. The SocMon teams comprising 7-10 workshop participants were also determined on day 2 of the workshop. The youngest SocMon team member overall is Alvin

Charles, a secondary school student from St. Joseph's convent in Grenville, Grenada who was particularly interested in the SocMon process and will act as student advisor and researcher on the team.



Dr. Patrick McConney leading the Barbados participants in discussion

Add-on specialisation modules on livelihoods analysis, economic valuation of natural resources and marine protected area management effectiveness (MPA-ME) and accompanying practical exercises were offered at each of the sites on the final day of the workshop to add value to the training.



Rose Place, St. Vincent's chosen site for monitoring

In July, each site will receive a grant of US\$2,500 to implement monitoring in each of the chosen study areas. The initial assessments will take eight weeks. So far, the SocMon teams in the majority

of the study sites have already held meetings to discuss the way forward. Motivation is high to initiate monitoring in the shortest possible time. Keep updated on this project's progress by visiting the CERMES website www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes

Reusable bags coming soon

The Future Centre Trust is currently implementing a reusable bag pilot project. This pilot project will be used not only as the start to the grand reduction of the use of plastic bags in Barbados, but also will be used as a market research tool. The Trust hopes this research will provide purchasers' information needed for a larger scale project which is to involve almost all, if not all, supermarket chains and other stores in the island. The attractive bags in cloth and polypropylene, have been selling out quickly. The polypropylene Super Centre customised bags are nearly gone. The cloth bags will soon be distributed through the Brighton Farmers Market, Redland Market and the Rotary Club of Barbados. Get yours now!



The Trust is still conducting its market research and needs your help. If you are interested in helping out for a few hours to sell these bags and at the same time gather information from purchasers as to why, how and when they would use these bags please contact Nicole Garofano at 425-2020 or by email at futurecentre@sunbeach.net.

Sayounara Jenson!

You may remember, Jenson Deokiesingh's contribution in April's Connections regarding his stint at CERMES. His article very well received by our readers and was a tribute to CERMES. Thank you, Jenson. Jenson will be leaving his homeland of Trinidad and Tobago in a matter of weeks for the Land of the Rising Sun, more precisely – Toyama, Japan- to take up a teaching position through the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme and we wish him the best. 良い運 (good luck) Jenson!

MarGov project update

This section has been specially added to our e-bulletin to inform, update and share lessons learned with partners, stakeholders, policy makers and other interested persons about the CERMES Marine Resource Governance in the eastern Caribbean (MarGov) project. We invite you to follow the development of MarGov in subsequent issues.

The MarGov Project team continued to raise the profile of the project among its various stakeholders over the last two months as project members participated in a number of conferences and workshops and delivered training within the region.

MarGov hosts networks workshop

In mid-April, the MarGov team hosted a contingent of Canadian researchers for a two-day workshop on marine resource governance from a network perspective aimed at fostering a collaborative research agenda between the Canadians and their Caribbean counterparts from CERMES and the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) in Trinidad and Tobago.

Participating in the workshop were Canadian researchers Brian Davy of the International Institute for Sustainable Development, David Natcher of the University of Saskatoon, Iain Davidson-Hunt and graduate student Roxy Nayar of the University of Manitoba, Melissa Marschke of the University of Ottawa; and CANARI researcher Simone Leid. MarGov Project Manager, Dr Patrick McConney, hosted the visitors, introducing them to various fish landing sites on the island, informing them of the issues surrounding sea urchin fishery research in Barbados and beyond, and later escorted the Canadian contingent to Grenada for a comparative exploration of the sea urchin fishery there. During the workshop, MarGov PhD researcher, Kemraj Parsram, offered the participants a hands-on network analysis session in collaboration with CERMES Research Assistant, Katherine Blackman, while MarGov Communications Assistant presented and overview of the MarGov communications strategy and plan.

MarGov announces Private Sector partners



Left: Professor Mahon accepting a cheque worth US\$5,000 from Paul Inniss of Island Heritage, while MarGov communications assistant Carmel (far left) looks on. Right: Professor Mahon (left) accepting a cheque worth US\$10,000 from Roger Bryan of Sol.

At the end of May, the MarGov Project team announced a new partnership with three pan-Caribbean private sector companies aimed at enhancing MarGov public outreach efforts.

Barbados-based regional oil supplier the Sol Group and the Cayman-based Island Heritage Insurance

presented cheques worth US\$15,000 to CERMES Director, Professor Robin Mahon, on 22 May to assist in funding the one year of public outreach efforts by the four-year MarGov Project. The Caribbean Media Corporation's cable channel CaribVision also signed on as official broadcast media partner to the project, which will provide MarGov with an avenue to reach its 1.2 million viewers in 23 countries including continental Europe.

Professor Mahon said during a press conference at UWI, Cave Hill, last Thursday that this initiative was sending a message to all stakeholders that if they network and are informed, then they can collaborate to devise governance practices that are resilient and can adapt readily to different marine issues as they arise.

Dale Miller, regional sales and marketing manager for CaribVision, Roger Bryan, Sol's southern Caribbean General Manager, and Island Heritage's Chief Operating Officer, Paul Inniss, each took the opportunity of the press conference to voice their company's support for the project and a willingness to play a more meaningful and proactive role in marine resource governance. A video of the press conference will soon be available for viewing on the MarGov website:
http://cermes.cavehill.uwi.edu/margov_profile.html

MarGov reaches out to tourism players



Carmel makes her presentation while fellow Environment, Climate Change and Renewable Energy panellist, William Pitre of the Puerto Rico Tourism Company, looks on.

From 15 - 19 May, the MarGov Project reached out to a wider cross-section of its stakeholders when Communications Assistant, Carmel Haynes, participated in the 12th Caribbean Media Exchange on Sustainable Development (CMEx) conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Carmel presented the MarGov Project to over 60 tourism officials, hoteliers, developers, and members of the media from within the Caribbean and the Caribbean diaspora, who gathered at the San Juan Holiday Inn for the conference.

The MarGov Project also benefited from global exposure as Carmel's presentation was one of a number of conference presentations streamed live on the Internet via www.milesahead.tv/cmex.

Carmel's Power Point presentation and other CMEx presentations, documents, stories and photos can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.counterpart.org/Default.aspx?tabid=340&metaid=J6IJ3137-681>

MarGov team expands

During April and May the MarGov team welcomed two new associate researchers in the forms of Canadian graduate students Roxy Nayar of the University of Manitoba and Laura Tabet of the Marine Affairs Program at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia. Roxy is based in Grenada researching the island's sea urchin fishery, while Laura is based in Barbados where she is researching the governance and networking aspects of the CRFM's fisherfolk organisation project. It is anticipated that the results of both research projects will feed into the research outputs of the MarGov project.

MarGov at the Caribbean Fisheries Forum

MarGov Project Manager, Dr. Patrick McConney, and Communications Assistant, Carmel Haynes, represented the UWI, Cave Hill, as observers at the sixth meeting of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism's (CRFM) Caribbean Fisheries Forum, which took in place in Paramaribo, Suriname, 8- 9 May.



Dr. McConney (right) engaging CRFM Deputy Executive Director (Ag.) Terrence Philips. in discussion following the official opening ceremony of the 6th Caribbean Fisheries Forum

The main purpose for attending was to present the 'University of the West Indies Annual Report on Fisheries and Marine Related Activities Jan 2007- Mar 2008' under the agenda item 'Presentations by Observer Organisations'.

During the course of the meeting Dr. McConney pledged CERMES support to the CRFM to assist it in strengthening its communications strategies and Carmel asked participants to support the MarGov Project in its outreach efforts by ensuring that articles or research information passed to them by the Project was communicated to the appropriate media houses. The UWI was praised for its continued collaboration with the CRFM Secretariat and its activities in various Member States.

Communications workshops conclude

Over 80 fisheries stakeholders from across five territories in the eastern Caribbean have been trained through the MarGov Project in the fundamentals of communication skills and techniques to better equip them for networking and advocacy within the industry. June 4, 2008, marked the sixth and final installment in the series of communications training workshops series entitled "Enhancing Marine Resource Governance through Developing Capacity for Communication in the Eastern Caribbean", which were held between March 25 and June 5, in Barbados, Grenada, St Lucia, St. Vincent, St Kitts and Nevis.

These workshops attracted public relations officers and executive members of the national fisher folk organisations and fisher folk co-operatives on each island; staff from the fisheries management authorities on the various islands from the levels of extension officers, technical officers, and senior fisheries officers who work in the field with fisher folk; and communications or information officers from the ministries of agriculture on the various islands. The workshops, which were coordinated and facilitated by MarGov Communications Assistant, Carmel Haynes, were made possible through a grant from the Small Grants Fund for Sustainable Fisheries and Alternative Livelihoods for Fishers administered by the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, on behalf of the United Nations Environmental Program and the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Managers Network.

More on MarGov?

For the most recent MarGov news, upcoming events and project reports, please visit the CERMES website at www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes and stay in touch via the *Connections*.